

**MINUTES OF
FAUQUIER COUNTY TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE
SEPTEMBER 24, 2003**

Members Present: Matthew Smith, Chairman; Per Bang-Jensen, Vice-Chairman; Garrett Moore; Ann McCarty; Gary Nelson; Sam Poles and Liz Cook.

Members Absent: J. David Cubbage; Laurence Mason and Sharon Grove McCamy.

Guests Present: Michael Motion; Ann Cronin; Ed Hauswald; Linda Newton; Ginevra Hunter; Janet Whitehouse; Chuck Medvitz and Susanne Lamb.

Staff Present: Fran Williams

Matthew Smith suggested that the order of the agenda items be changed to accommodate the visitors in attendance. All members were in agreement.

1. Approval of July 30, 2003 and September 9, 2003 Committee Meeting Minutes.

On motion made by Sam Poles and seconded by Per Bang-Jensen it was moved to approve the July 25, 2003 Committee meeting minutes. The motion carried unanimously.

The September 9, 2003 Committee meeting minutes were not available for review.

2. Receive an Update on the Following Item: Atoka Road Speed Limit and Road Condition. (Item 6. c.)

Linda Newton expressed concern about the possible widening of Atoka Road. Ms. Newton stated that there are currently a large number of trucks, many traveling over the speed limit, using Atoka Road as a shortcut or to avoid the Weigh Station on Route 81. Ms. Newton stated that she would like to see traffic calming measures put in place on Atoka Road, such as a reduction of the speed limit as well as a traffic circle.

Ed Hauswald stated that many trucks traveling on Atoka Road are non-local tractor trailers that do not easily fit on this road. Having followed many of them, their back wheels go off the road. Many residents feel that widening Atoka Road would not address the root cause of the problem. Mr. Hauswald stated that he and his neighbors are present to express their opposition to having this road widened.

Ann Cronan, a representative of the Goose Creek Association and the Friends of Rectortown, stated that a group of citizens conducted a traffic study, which she will forward to the Committee, last spring on Atoka Road, Zulla Road and Halfway Road. Ms. Cronan stated that 26 large trucks (tractor trailers) were counted in a 14-hour period. They actually followed some of the trucks and noted they were using these roads as a shortcut to other areas. Ms. Cronan further stated that any widening of Atoka Road would only encourage motorists to go faster. Ms. Cronan stated that she would like to see the speed limit reduced to 45 mph along Zulla Road for all vehicles and then see increased enforcement.

Michael Motion expressed concern about the rumor that Atoka Road will be widened. Mr. Motion stated that he has seen numerous tractor trailers on Zulla Road in recent weeks and has followed some to Route 7. Mr. Motion stated that congestion along Atoka Road is unbelievable and that this road cannot handle any more traffic. Mr. Motion stated that he would like to see the road made safer without changing the width.

Ann McCarty asked about VDOT's position on this issue. Garrett Moore stated that he received a request to widen Atoka Road several months ago, but at this time, VDOT has no plans to do so since there are other roads that are a higher priority and most people do not want it widened. Mr. Moore stated that he would support a 45 mph speed limit on this road and the County can forward a request to the Commonwealth Transportation Board to restrict large truck usage. Mr. Moore further stated that traffic circles make it very difficult for maintenance and that he has seen numerous accidents on them.

Sam Poles stated that a traffic study was done by VDOT approximately one year ago, which indicated that there were a number of horse trailers on this road as well. Liz Cook stated that it was suggested that the traffic study be conducted again after school opened.

Ann McCarty stated that many through trucks are using back roads to avoid scales, but these roads were not engineered for this large amount of traffic.

Per Bang-Jensen stated that the closure of Route 17 to through trucks has caused the unintended consequence of making problems for many of the back roads, but if these roads are also closed to the trucks this will cause problems for other roads.

Susanne Lamb stated that the best solution would be to lower the speed limit along these roads so that the larger trucks will want to use Route 66 instead of the narrower rural roads. Ms. Lamb also expressed concern for teen drivers and other residents trying to get out of driveways along these roads.

Garrett Moore stated that he will request a traffic study and include his recommendation of 45 mph. Mr. Moore stated that this process may take several months.

On motion made by Sam Poles and seconded by Ann McCarty it was moved to recommend that the Board of Supervisors forward a Resolution to VDOT requesting that the speed limit on Atoka Road, Zulla Road and Halfway Road be lowered to 45 mph after the traffic study is completed. The motion carried unanimously.

3. Consider a Request for Speed Limit Signage on Clarkes Road (Route 608) – Dale Phillips. (Item #2)

Dale Phillips was not present at the meeting. Garrett Moore stated that he forwarded a request to VDOT's Traffic Engineers to have the speed limit on Clarkes Road (Route 608) lowered to 35 mph, but they have made a recommendation of 40 mph.

Mr. Moore stated that a letter he received from Ms. Phillips included a request for a traffic signal at the intersection of Clarkes Road and Route 17 in Opal near the Sheetz gas station. Mr. Moore stated that installing a traffic signal at this location would be unsafe. Mr. Moore concluded by stating that the proposed Opal interchange, which should be completed by approximately 2007, would help alleviate some of the safety issues.

4. Consider a Request to Include Chimney Lake Lane in the Rural Addition Program – Carlin Hunter. (Item #3)

Carlin Hunter was not present at the meeting. Per Bang-Jensen stated that a moratorium is in effect only if VDOT needs to spend money to bring a road up to standard. ***Liz Cook stated that she will contact Mr. Hunter to determine the condition of Chimney Lake Lane.***

5. Consider Making a Recommendation on the Secondary Road Six-Year Plan. (Item #4)

Garrett Moore distributed a worksheet outlining the recommendations on the Secondary Road Six-Year Plan. Mr. Moore's worksheet contained roads already on last year's plan and priority roads from past years that did not have funding to make it into that plan. Mr. Moore stated that his major secondary road concerns for future years include:

- 1) Funding to improve the secondary infrastructure to safely serve the growing population and developments within the Service Districts.
- 2) The highest priorities are Routes 600, 602 and 605 in the New Baltimore Service District, as the developments in this area do not directly access primary roads. Route 676 will require some improvement, although some improvements are currently scheduled to be done by developers. All of these roads present significant safety issues that will increase as the population continues to grow. The issues include inadequate sight distance, inadequate recovery room/clear zone and inconsistent alignments.
- 3) Secondary road bridges within the County face a need to be upgraded for safety. Many of these bridges were designed to old standards and have deteriorated over the years. Currently, 22 of Fauquier's secondary bridges have been rated as critical for replacement or to be rebuilt, with 11 of these posted for reduced capacity. Currently, 5 bridge or box culvert projects are on the Secondary Six-Year Plan.
- 4) Potential use of secondary road funds in conjunction with Revenue Sharing funds from developer proffers. This could be used to make up some of the shortfall to support increased traffic from development already planned for construction.

Mr. Moore stated that he will forward a breakdown of the estimated cost of each road to Committee members and bring his final recommendations to the next meeting.

6. Receive an Update on the Route 29 Crossover Study. (Item #5)

Garrett Moore stated that "No 'U' Turn" signs have been installed at the crossovers and he has not received much feedback. Mr. Moore further stated that VDOT is ready to proceed with the closure of crossovers identified as being unsafe throughout the County.

Per Bang-Jensen stated that the Committee had previously discussed closing ~~only~~ those unsafe crossovers only in the southern part of the County as a first step rather than the entire County. ***Garrett Moore will review the information previously provided by VDOT and report back to the Committee at its next meeting.***

7. Receive an Update on the Following Items: (Item #6)

Six-Year Improvement Program Public Hearing – October 7, 2003, Brandy Station Volunteer Fire Department, 19601 Church Road, Brandy Station.

Matthew Smith will represent the Committee at the October 7, 2003 Culpeper District Six-Year Primary Road Improvement Program public hearing.

Route 29 Weigh Station.

Garrett Moore stated that he has contacted the Richmond Department of Motor Vehicles and was told that the Weigh Station has not been used recently because of accidents which have occurred during previous weigh-ins. The DMV is currently reviewing safety recommendations from VDOT's Traffic Engineering department. The DMV plans to resume periodic weigh-ins once they have gotten a plan together for the site that implements those safety recommendations.

Atoka Road Speed Limit and Road Condition.

(See Item 2 above).

Chestnut Turn Noise Study.

Garrett Moore stated that he has notified Ken Clark, a resident of Chestnut Turn subdivision who contacted him about a noise study, informing him that VDOT does not currently have funding for noise abatement construction.

Traffic Calming for Emerald Oaks through the VDOT Traffic Calming Program.

Liz Cook stated that the Department of Community Development does not currently have the staffing or resources to start this process.

8. *Other Items. (Item #7)*

Ann McCarty stated that she has received a call from Susan Penic of Paris about water going down her driveway. ***Garrett Moore will look into this matter.***

Sam Poles stated that VDOT has workers marking Ramey Road (Route 732) with orange lines and asked what work would be done. Garrett Moore stated that a request had been received from Supervisor Harry Atherton for some safety improvements to be done along this road. Mr. Moore stated that VDOT will be doing some work along the ditches to increase the shoulder area and replace approximately 20 culverts.

Gary Nelson stated that there are some tree limbs along Routes 29 and 625. ***Garrett Moore stated that VDOT will remove these within the next month.***

Per Bang-Jensen stated that the petition from residents along Springs Road included a request to have the speed limit lowered through the Village of Turnbull. ***Garrett Moore will look into this matter.***

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:55 P.M.